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Claims

1. A method of forwarding a data packet to a connection-oriented network,
said method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 a) broadcasting said data packet from a routing device (20) to a plurality of access devices (31 to 3n) of a connection-oriented network using a broadcast address;
 - b) checking at each of said plurality of access devices (31 to 3n)
10 whether a multicast destination address of said data packet is supported; and
 - c) forwarding said data packet from a supporting one (32) of said plurality of access devices (31 to 3n) to said multicast destination address.
- 15 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said broadcast address is predefined.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said connection-oriented network is a cellular network.
- 20 4. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said data packet is an IP data packet.
5. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said
25 broadcast address is a link-layer address.
6. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said access devices store mappings between supported destination addresses and their link-layer addresses.
- 30 7. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said destination address is a network layer address.
8. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said
35 destination address is an address of a mobile node.

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9. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of encapsulating said data packet into a link-layer frame comprising said broadcast address.
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10. A method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said access devices (31 to 3n) discard or drop said data packet if they don't support said multicast destination address.
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11. An access device for forwarding a data packet in a connection-oriented network, said access device (31 to 3n) comprising:
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- a) detecting means for detecting a predetermined broadcast address added to said data packet;
 - b) checking means for checking whether a multicast destination address of said multicast data packet is supported by said access device (31 to 3n); and
 - c) forwarding means for forwarding said data packet to said multicast destination address in response to said checking means.
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12. A device according to claim 11, further comprising dropping means for dropping said data packet if said checking means determines that said destination address is not supported.
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13. A device according to claim 11 or 12, wherein said multicast destination address is a network-layer address and said broadcast address is a link-layer address.
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14. A device according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said access device comprises a cellular access point (31 to 3n).
15. A routing device for forwarding a data packet to a connection-oriented network, said routing device (20) comprising:
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- a) checking means for checking whether said data packet requires a multicast transmission; and

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- b) addressing means for adding a predetermined broadcast address to said data packet if said checking means determines that said data packet requires a multicast transmission; and
- 5 c) forwarding said data packet from said routing device (20) to a plurality of access devices (31 to 3n) of a connection-oriented network using said broadcast address.